

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 18A

MIAMI HERALD
11 August 1983

Around the Americas

Halt CIA covert aid, Pepper says

By GEOFFREY TOMB
Herald Political Writer

Rep. Claude Pepper on Wednesday called for an end to covert CIA aid to opponents of the Nicaraguan government, and said a united effort by all nations of the Americas is the avenue for solution to Central America's problems.

The Miami Democrat, in a forceful speech to the Tiger Bay Political Club, suggested that the Orga-

nization of Pepper American States, "not U.S. gunboats," should be the vehicle to containing communism in the troubled region.



"If the OAS decides to send troops, money and ships, then we can all work together to defend our hemisphere," said Pepper, chairman of the powerful House Rules Committee.

By sending U.S. Navy aircraft carriers and a battleship into the waters off Nicaragua, the potential was present for a situation similar to the 1898 sinking of the USS Maine in Cuba, which so inflamed passions that the United States went to war with Spain, Pepper said.

Although Pepper was born Sept. 8, 1900, he said he can still recall cheering crowds saying America must "Remember the Maine," the battle cry of the Spanish-American War.

"There should be no more covert operations," Pepper said of the secret aid being funneled to Nicaraguan guerrillas seeking to overthrow the leftist Sandinista government.